

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



WHISPERING WINDS
Catholic Conference Center

OUR MISSION:

“...to provide a Christ-centered environment, apart from the everyday world, where **all are welcome** to increase their knowledge of and commitment to Christ, and join as fellow pilgrims on their journey of faith with God.”

A LETTER FROM THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARTIN ROSALES

“Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world.” – Pope Francis, November 2013

When people arrive at Whispering Winds, they recognize something different. Often times the first indicators are the pine-scented air and quiet starry nights. But it doesn't take long for our guests to see something much deeper spiritually – a different way of doing things, acting and living. Our lay-based Catholic camp has a mission to provide a place where all are welcome to experience a different love than the world offers: a place for children, teens, young adults, parents, couples, seniors and special needs friends; a place for non-profit organizations like the Civic Youth Orchestra, Noah's Home and Camp Connect Foster Kids Camp; a place for all to awaken to God's love.

Since our inception in 1978, we have not stopped growing and improving! Thanks to a generous grant from the Caster Family, we will be building out our camp to capacity. In the next two to three years Whispering Winds will be expanded to include a new Welcome Center, Meeting Hall and Lodge Building. We have also moved our San Diego office to a new, larger site, to help accommodate our growing staff. In addition, we have improved our website with professional videos to provide a better visual reality for our guests, and our website can now be viewed via mobile devices.

Many hands and hearts have helped build Whispering Winds to the beautiful place it is today. As Mother Theresa said, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” Together we have made an impact in God's kingdom, helping to provide a place where God's voice can be heard in the whisper of the wind.

Let us celebrate the past and His wondrous deeds, and let us excitedly push toward the future, where our God promises to powerfully work through our humble hands.



Sincerely,

Martin Rosales

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

Bishop McElroy Visits Camp

Bishop McElroy's first visit to Whispering Winds produced a mountain-top high experience for all. He celebrated Mass in August for the Diocesan Camp Emmaus Leadership Institute. Over 180 teens and young adults received many blessings from Bishop McElroy's message of the transforming power of God in the Biblical Transfiguration story as well as the life-changing moments happening on the Whispering Winds mountain today.



Scholarship Welcomes Military Families

All families benefit from time spent together, especially military families! A very generous donation from Steve and Val Spooner allowed for military families to attend our first-ever Military Family Camp for only \$100. Many of the families who attended had a spouse deployed or heading to deployment. Some were experiencing challenging times due to financial or emotional needs. Camp provided quality time for parents and children as well as fun activities. Special military resources and speakers were part of the spiritual nourishment.



Building on our Faith Foundation

We launched the next phase of construction at the camp thanks to the abundant generosity of Terry and Barbara Caster! A new Welcome Center, Meeting Hall and Lodge Building are planned for completion by 2017. Groundbreaking starts this spring. We are thankful for the many gifts God bestows on us every day. Please pray for us as we embark on this exciting journey!



Welcome Center



Meeting Hall

2015

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

AN INVESTMENT IN MINISTRY

| INCOME | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Camp Income | \$1,013,103 | \$1,121,942 | \$1,144,458 |
| In Kind Donations | \$200 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Grants | \$30,000 | \$105,670 | \$0 |
| Private Donors / CRT's - Ops | \$368,972 | \$558,752 | \$634,292 |
| Total Fundraising - Ops | \$399,172 | \$664,422 | \$634,292 |
| Interest / Investment Income | \$494 | \$1,226 | (\$40,098) |
| Extraordinary Income / Exp | \$2,500 | \$2,690 | \$0 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$1,415,269 | \$1,790,280 | \$1,738,651 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Camp & Programs: | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | \$548,932 | \$639,157 | \$713,004 |
| Operating & Other | \$568,967 | \$610,308 | \$608,568 |
| Camp & Program Exp. | \$1,117,899 | \$1,249,465 | \$1,321,572 |
| Camp Surplus (Deficit) | \$297,370 | \$540,814 | \$417,079 |
| Administrative & Admin: | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | \$209,625 | \$195,704 | \$209,710 |
| Administrative & Other | \$69,259 | \$77,799 | \$99,065 |
| Total Administrative Exp. | \$278,885 | \$273,503 | \$308,776 |
| OPS SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | 18,486 | \$267,311 | \$108,304 |
| CAPITAL / BUILDING PROJECTS | | | |
| Balance at Beginning of Year | \$152,725 | \$32,464 | \$37,517 |
| Capital Income | \$204,901 | \$115,718 | \$490,866 |
| Capital Expenditures | (\$325,163) | (\$110,664) | (\$231,174) |
| Year End Balance - Capital | \$32,463 | \$37,517 | \$297,210 |

Non-audited financial data

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Est. Guests Served | 10,000 | WW Programs | 8 |
| Groups Served | 122 | Diocesan Programs | 3 |
| Guest Nights | 17,827 | Churches Served | 36 |
| Meals Served | 43,454 | Schools Served | 20 |
| Website Visits | 21,602 | eUpdate Opens | 30,590 |



Family Camp Parent:

“Family Camp has given us the opportunity to be refreshed and rejuvenated, especially after spending the last 13 weeks with my husband deployed. This was a great way to enjoy a whole, undistracted weekend together and be encouraged in our faith.”

Teen Parent

“My kids are newly baptized. I worried that I had messed up by not providing a God-loving family from early on. At Whispering Winds, my children grew leaps and bounds in their faith. I felt some of the pressure lifted from me because I realized there is an amazing community that will help me raise them in Christ.”



Youth Minister

“Whispering Winds is our ‘home away from home.’ As a Youth Minister, directing camps for adolescents can be a monumental job. The facility and staff are significant factors in making a retreat or leadership development program an unforgettably positive experience for our team and participants. We are excited to return to camp year after year knowing that we will be inspired by God’s presence in nature, comfortable and safe in your facilities, and nurtured by His gifted and skilled camp staff.”

PLANNED GIVING

By leaving a gift to the Whispering Winds Endowment you become a member of the Holy Ground Society. This select group of men and women believe in securing a bright future for the camp.

When you make a gift of bequest to Whispering Winds, you are not only creating a legacy for you and your family but contributing to the future of Whispering Winds. A gift or bequest costs you nothing now but offers you a way to support our endowment fund with an unrestricted gift or to support a program of your choice.

Making a bequest to Whispering Winds is easy. You may sign a new trust agreement, a codicil to your present will or amend your present trust instrument. You can designate a small percentage of your estate, a specific asset such as real estate or securities, or we can assist you with a charitable trust that generates lifetime income for you and provides a generous tax deduction. Alternatively, you may also name Whispering Winds as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

If you need help, our staff is ready to assist you in making the best charitable gift decisions to meet your financial needs. For more information, please contact Martin Rosales, Executive Director, at martin@whisperingwinds.org or 619-464-1479.



There are a number of ways you can become more involved in supporting our efforts:

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

As a member of our Monthly Donor Program, your sacrifice shares your faith with campers in a convenient way through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or credit card from your designated account. Your consistent support allows us to make long term plans for facility and ministry improvements.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Your gift to the fund will send a child or family to camp.

STOCK, REAL ESTATE, OR GIFTS OF PROPERTY

Your gift of appreciated stock, real estate, art, vehicles, and other property is another way to support the camp and impact lives.

ONE-TIME DONATIONS

Your gift can be for where the need is greatest or designated for the specific area or program that has meaning to you and your family. A tribute gift is a heartfelt way to express your love, gratitude and appreciation for the life of someone while enriching the lives of many. Such a gift is a great way to remember or honor someone special, or commemorate a special time in your life such as a birthday, anniversary, or retirement. Ask if your company makes matching gifts for donations.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE GALA SPONSORSHIP

Your family or business can support our largest fundraiser, the Dinner Dance Gala, through numerous sponsorship opportunities. Donate wine, host a table, place an ad, or contribute an auction item.

VOLUNTEER

Giving of your time and talent is always welcome and numerous opportunities at the camp and in the office arise throughout the year that benefit from the dedicated assistance of volunteers, young and old.

WISHLIST

Whispering Winds accepts items for the camp and office such as archery, tennis, and basketball supplies; gardening tools, etc. Consider donating your gently used items next time you do "spring cleaning." You will receive a tax receipt for your in-kind donation.



2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Food Service/Camp Nurse
Dolores Mondragon
Food Service
Cheryl Smith
Food Service
Guillermo Lopez
Groundskeeper
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Lead Groundskeeper
Martina Montes
Lead Housekeeper
Letty Alvarez Nuno
Housekeeping
Armando Rios
Food Service
Marshall Marriott
Food Service
Sam Chevalier
Food Service

***If you are interested in participating,
please see our website at whisperingwinds.org
and click on SUPPORT or contact us at
(619) 464-1479 or office@whisperingwinds.org.***

Some photos courtesy of:
Bob Forrest Photography, your-precious-moments.com
Breslin Creative Photography,
dbreslinphotography.smugmug.com

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